



ISSUE TWO



EVAN NARCISSE · NIKOLAS DRAPER-IVEY · WIL QUINTANA

BATMAN TM STATIC

BEYOND

SYSTEM
SHUTDOWN

13+
TEEN



THE ABSOLUTE UNIVERSE EXPANDS WITH THREE UNBELIEVABLE NEW COLLECTED EDITIONS!

ABSOLUTE
GREEN LANTERN

Vol. 1: Without Fear

Written by
AL EWING

Art by
JAHNOY LINDSAY

ABSOLUTE
MARTIAN MANHUNTER

Vol. 1: Martian Vision

Written by
DENIZ CAMP

Art by
JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ

ABSOLUTE
FLASH

Vol. 1: Of Two Worlds

Written by
JEFF LEMIRE

Art by
NICK ROBLES

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ALL IN

**AVAILABLE
NOW**

TERRY!
C'MON,
DUDE!

THE SUIT'S
GONNA RUN OUT OF
POWER SOON!

YOU'VE
GOT THE BATWING
ON AUTOPILOT DOING
SEARCH SCANS, TOO!
MIGHT BE TIME TO
TAKE A BREAK...

NO WAY,
MAX! I GOTTA
FIND MELVIN!

STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE HE SHOWED UP
TO PROTEST THE Q-GRID
LAUNCH LAST NIGHT AFTER
THOSE TECH BRAH BULLIES
GOT IN HIS FACE AT
SCHOOL.

MELVIN MIGHT
BE TOUGHER THAN WE
THOUGHT. MAYBE HE GOT
OUT OKAY...?



I NEED TO KNOW FOR SURE. I--I SAID HE COULD PING ME IF HE NEEDED HELP BUT THE JOKERZ HAD ME TOO BUSY TO ANSWER HIS CALL.

THEN YOU CAUGHT HIM ON STREETCAM RIGHT BEFORE...

"...HE HASN'T ANSWERED ANY OF MY CALLS."

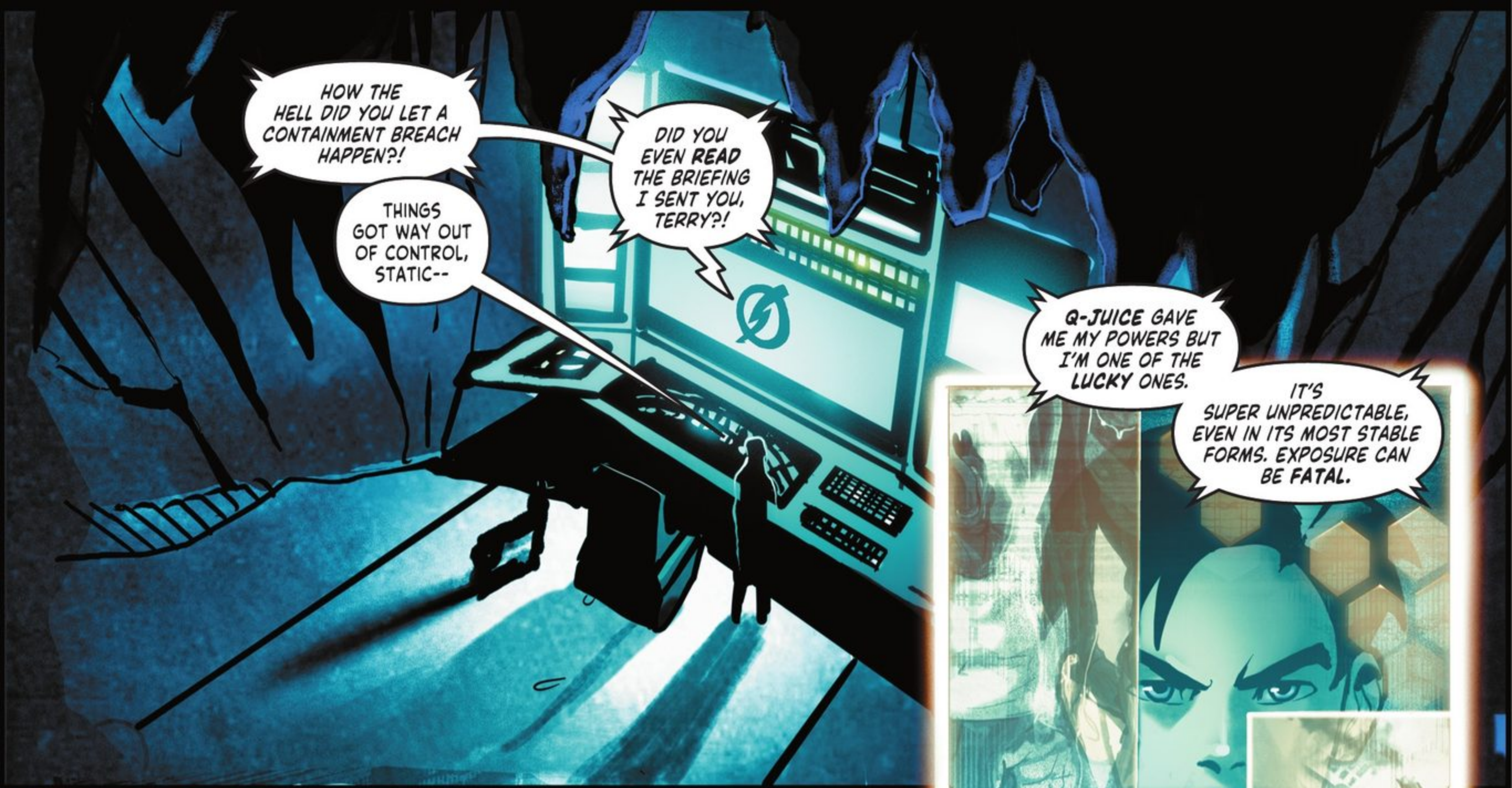


I'M NOT SEEING ANY *OUTGOING CALLS* FROM HIS NUMBER ON THE NETWORK LOGS I CAN ACCESS.

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ARE STILL SIFTING THROUGH WRECKAGE...



WHY DON'T YOU HEAD BACK TO THE CAVE AND WE'LL START SEARCHING HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS.



HOW THE HELL DID YOU LET A CONTAINMENT BREACH HAPPEN?!

THINGS GOT WAY OUT OF CONTROL, STATIC--

DID YOU EVEN READ THE BRIEFING I SENT YOU, TERRY?!

Q-JUICE GAVE ME MY POWERS BUT I'M ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES.

IT'S SUPER UNPREDICTABLE, EVEN IN ITS MOST STABLE FORMS. EXPOSURE CAN BE FATAL.



AND THE **SAFETY MEASURES** PROTECTING THE Q-TANKS WEREN'T ACTIVATED BECAUSE IT WAS A PRE-LAUNCH EVENT. **GREAT, JUST GREAT.**

DO YOU KNOW IF ANYONE WAS EXPOSED?

"A KID I KNOW FROM SCHOOL, MAYBE...I THINK. NOT SURE."

LOOK, I'M SORRY IF I'M COMING ACROSS TOO HARSH.

THE WHOLE Q-GRID THING IS ABOUT HELPING PEOPLE NO ONE CARES ABOUT. THERE'S **TOO MUCH** AT STAKE FOR THINGS TO GO WRONG.

WHOEVER GOT HIT BY THE Q-JUICE, YOU HAVE TO FIND THEM **FAST**. IF THEY DON'T GET HELP, THEY COULD HURT THEMSELVES **OR OTHERS**.

PING ME AS SOON AS YOU HAVE MORE INFO. STATIC OUT.



WOULD'VE BEEN NICE IF YOU STOOD UP FOR ME THERE, BRUCE.

≡Hh≡
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO STAND UP FOR **YOURSELF...**

BRUCE WAYNE. THE ORIGINAL BATMAN.

"YOU CAN START BY
FINDING WHOEVER
GOT EXPOSED."

EMTs FOUND
THIS JOHN DOE WASHED UP
AGAINST THE RUINS OF THE DOCKS
A FEW HOURS AGO. NO I.D. OR
WORKING TECH.

RIVER'S *FREEZING* THIS
TIME OF YEAR! HOW'S THIS
KID EVEN *ALIVE*?!

NO IDEA. LET'S
GET A HEAT-SHEATH
ON HIM, STAT, AND
RUN HIS VITALS.

HEARD ABOUT
THESE. DEVELOPED
BY *WAYNETECH* A
WHILE BACK TO THAW
OUT *MR. FREEZE'S*
VICTIMS. *ONLY IN*
GOTHAM--

WEIRD...
THIS MONITOR
KEEPS FLICKERING.
WAS WORKING FINE
ALL NIGHT...

N-NO...
STOP...

AAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!

WHAT
THE---!

OOOF!

CAN...UNGH...FEEL...
IT...ALL!

AAAAGH!
IT...HURTS!



ZETABOT,
SEDATION
AND RESTRAINT
PROTOCOLS!
NOW!

NO!

QUERY?
PATIENT
LOCAT--

GOTTA...
GET H-HOME...

WAIT!
DON'T LEAVE!
YOU NEED
HELP!



THE KIM HOUSEHOLD.

ZZZRT

INPUT NOT RECOGNIZED!

Argh! Feels like my insides are on fire!

WHY ISN'T THIS STUPID THING WORKING?!

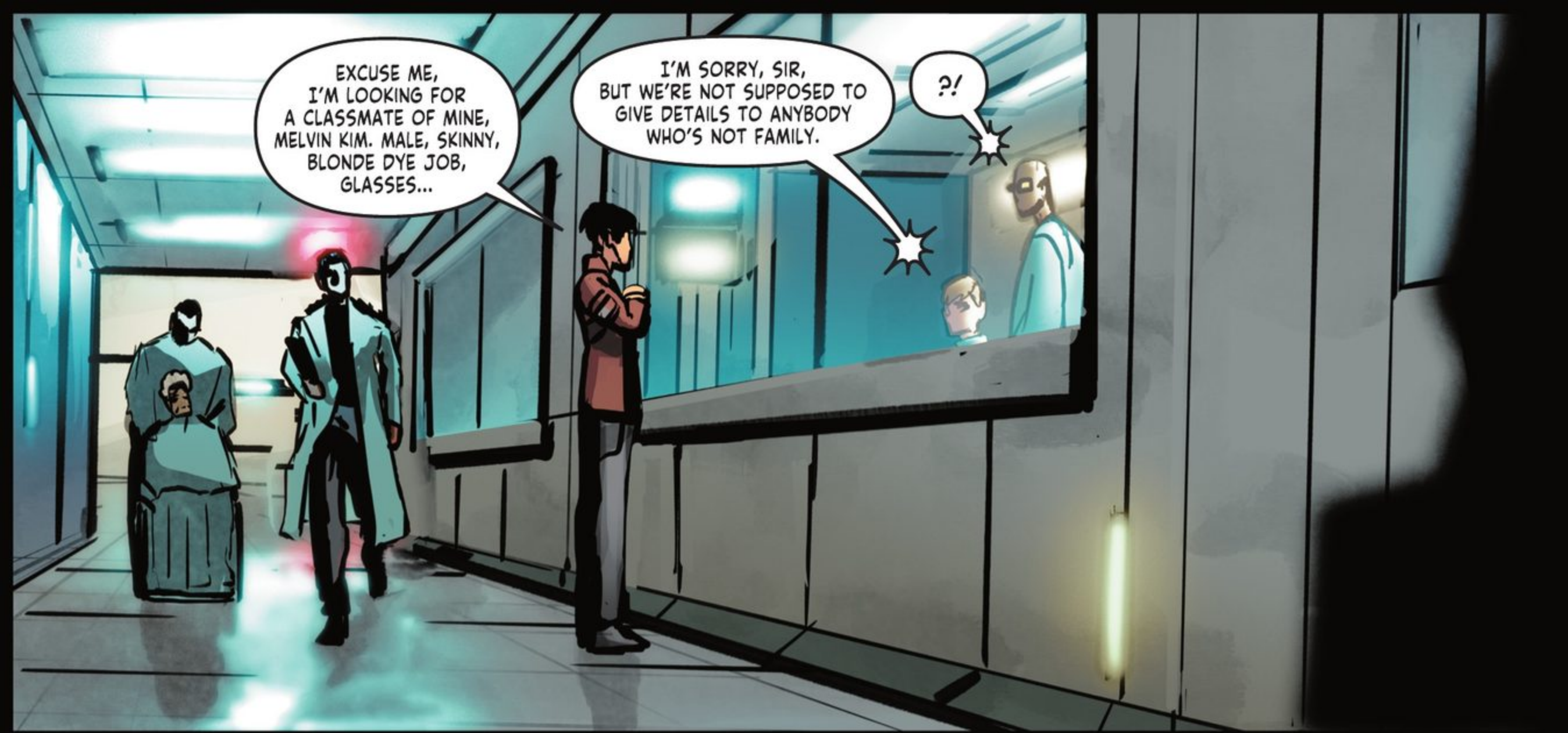


MOM!
DAD!
I CAN'T GET IN!



LET ME--

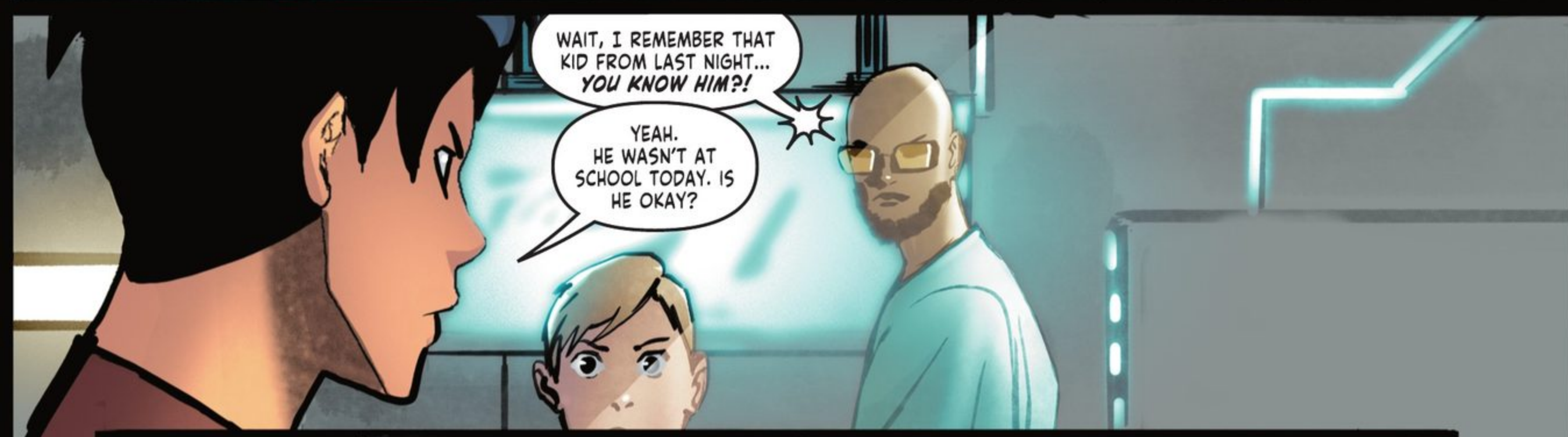




EXCUSE ME, I'M LOOKING FOR A CLASSMATE OF MINE, MELVIN KIM. MALE, SKINNY, BLONDE DYE JOB, GLASSES...

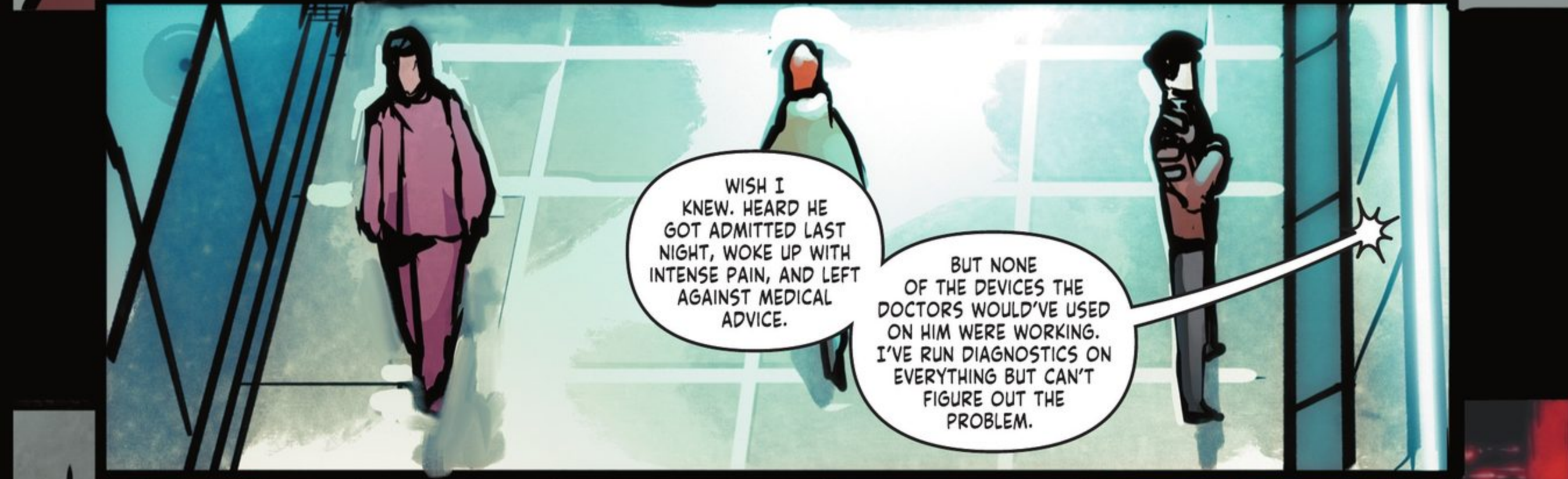
I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO GIVE DETAILS TO ANYBODY WHO'S NOT FAMILY.

?!



WAIT, I REMEMBER THAT KID FROM LAST NIGHT... YOU KNOW HIM?!

YEAH. HE WASN'T AT SCHOOL TODAY. IS HE OKAY?



WISH I KNEW. HEARD HE GOT ADMITTED LAST NIGHT, WOKE UP WITH INTENSE PAIN, AND LEFT AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE.

BUT NONE OF THE DEVICES THE DOCTORS WOULD'VE USED ON HIM WERE WORKING. I'VE RUN DIAGNOSTICS ON EVERYTHING BUT CAN'T FIGURE OUT THE PROBLEM.



HEY, MAX, IT'S ME. GOOD NEWS AND BAD: I THINK MELVIN'S ALIVE BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS OR HOW TO FIND HIM.



LET ME DO SOME DIGGING... MAYBE OTHER KIDS FROM SCHOOL COULD HELP US TRACK HIM DOWN.

The pain... that
fire inside... it's
died down.

Need to call Mom and
Dad. They'll help me
figure out what's--





Unfff...the heat-sheath
and robot in the ER, the
lock at home, and this
old T-Tablet just now...



Any time I touch
some tech, it hurts
like hell and things
stopped working.

Ever since
the protest
last night...

...when the broken
Q-Grid canister sprayed
that liquid all over me.



Hard to concentrate.
Ungh. Gotta remember what
Darryl told us at school.

He said the Q-Grid
uses some kinda
weird substance...



THEY'RE RUNNING
THEIR GRID ON THIS JUNK
CALLED Q-JUICE! IT TURNS
PEOPLE INTO FREAKS!

THAT'S WHY
WE DON'T WANT IT
IN GOTHAM!

All these Q-Grid stations going live...
they're running on Q-Juice, too!
I have to stop them! The pain I'm
feeling...these changes...I won't
let it happen to someone else!

HEY, DARRYL,
YOU'RE PART OF
THE ANTI-Q FOLKS,
RIGHT? WHAT'S
YOUR BEEF?

WE JUST DON'T WANT
PEOPLE FROM ANOTHER CITY
TELLING US HOW WE SHOULD
LIVE OUR LIVES!

WHAT ABOUT
MELVIN? DID HE SHARE
YOUR VIEWS?

THE SKINNY KID?
I GUESS. THINK I HEARD HIM
SAY SOMETHING ABOUT HIS
PARENTS, TOO?

THE FOLKS
MAKING THE Q-GRID TECH
SAY THEY WANNA HELP
PEOPLE, THOUGH.

PFFF, THEIR
SO-CALLED "ENERGY
REVOLUTION"?!

WITH DATA CENTERS HOGGING JUICE,
LOTS OF FOLKS CAN'T PAY FOR CONSISTENT
POWER OR NETWORK ACCESS! THE
NARROWS GETS BLACKOUTS LIKE
ONCE A MONTH!

DOESN'T
MEAN WE GOTTA
LIVE AROUND SOMETHING
THAT CAN MUTATE US
INTO KAIJU!

OKAY, ENOUGH
DEBATING. HAVE YOU
HEARD FROM MELVIN
SINCE LAST NIGHT?

NAH, BUT IT'S
NOT LIKE WE'RE FRIENDS
OR ANYTHING...

"...WE JUST WANT TO
FIX ALL THE MESSED-UP
STUFF IN OUR LIVES."

IT'S A GREAT DAY,
DAKOTA! TODAY WE SHOW
THE WORLD WHAT WE'RE
ALL ABOUT!

SOME OF Y'ALL
KNOW ME AS A SUPERHERO,
OTHERS AS A PHYSICIST. BEFORE
I WAS EITHER OF THOSE THINGS, I
WAS A PROUD PRODUCT OF DAKOTA.
JUST LIKE OUR MAYOR
RAQUEL ERVIN.

REMEMBER WHEN
SHE FLEW THROUGH THE
SKY AS **ROCKET**? GOT
US THROUGH SOME
ROUGH TIMES...

"...AND WE NEEDED THAT
BACK IN THE DAY. AFTER
THE BIG BANG CHANGED SO
MANY OF US, THEY CALLED US
FREAKS. SUPERPREDATORS.

"SAID THE FEDS SHOULD
TAKE OVER PARIS
ISLAND OR JUST BOMB
US OUT OF EXISTENCE.

"THE POWERS THAT BE DIDN'T
SEE A FUTURE FOR US. BUT WE
MADE OUR OWN. WHAT DO WE
SAY ON PARIS ISLAND?"

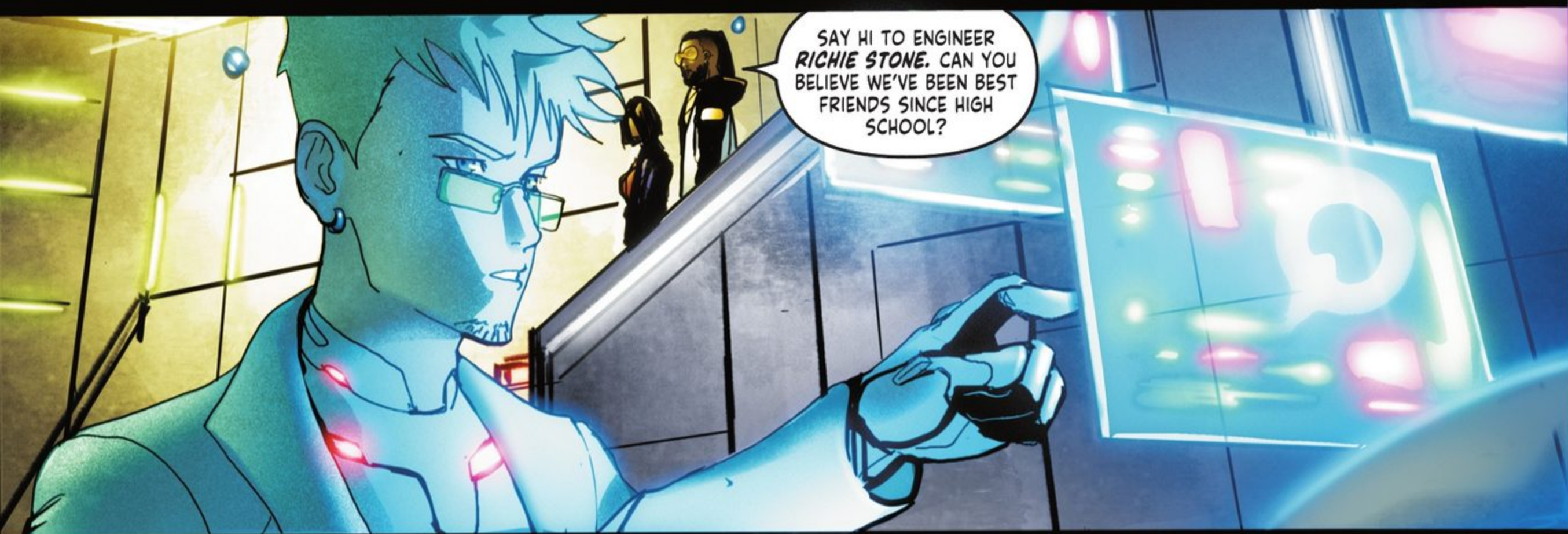
"WE DO IT
OURSELVES OR
IT DON'T GET
DONE!"

MAMA!
GRANDPA! LOOK,
IT'S DADDY!



"PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER DAKOTA LENT THEIR EXPERTISE, LIKE MY GENIUS MENTOR CURTIS METCALF.

"TOGETHER, WE TURNED THIS PLACE AROUND AND HELPED DAKOTA BECOME EVERYTHING YOU SEE NOW.



SAY HI TO ENGINEER **RICHIE STONE**. CAN YOU BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN BEST FRIENDS SINCE HIGH SCHOOL?



ONCE THEY SAW WHAT WE'D BEEN DOING, THOSE SAME CRITICS STARTED CALLING US ELITISTS. **SELFISH**.

TODAY, WE PROVE THEM **WRONG**.

DEREK POWERS AND ALL THE OTHER BILLIONAIRES HAVE BEEN CHARGING BIG BUCKS JUST SO THAT REGULAR FOLKS CAN KEEP THEIR LIGHTS ON OR USE FREEWEB.



Q-GRID'S GONNA CHANGE ALL THAT. SAFE, CHEAP ENERGY AND NETWORKING FOR ALL. DEVELOPED RIGHT HERE ON PARIS ISLAND.

POWER STATIONS WILL BE COMING ONLINE ALL OVER THE WORLD SOON. THIS SAME TECH'S GOING TO OPEN UP A WHOLE NEW ERA OF SPACE EXPLORATION, TOO.

SO, YEAH... BANG BABIES WERE NEVER THE MONSTERS THEY SAID WE WERE. LIKE I SAID BEFORE, WE MADE OUR OWN FUTURE. **BECAUSE WE HAD TO**.

LUCKY FOR Y'ALL, WE'RE SHARING IT WITH THE WORLD. **YOU'RE WELCOME**.



WHEN I WALK AROUND THIS GREAT CITY, PEOPLE ALWAYS ASK WHY I STOPPED BEING A SUPERHERO.



"MY MENTOR *ICON* USED TO DESCRIBE OUR WORK AS A 'CHALLENGE TO BE OF SERVICE TO HUMANITY.'

"I RAN FOR MAYOR TO TRY AND ANSWER THAT CHALLENGE IN A DIFFERENT WAY.



"EVER SINCE THE BIG BANG, DAKOTA'S DEALT WITH GOVERNMENT-BACKED KIDNAPPERS SNATCHING OUR METAHUMAN CHILDREN AND OTHER TERRIBLE THREATS.

"NEW HEROES LIKE *BEACON* HAVE JOINED THE FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR MOST VULNERABLE...



"...WHILE PREDECESSORS LIKE *HARDWARE*, *STATIC*, AND THE *BLOOD SYNDICATE* REBUILT DAKOTA WITH THE FOLKS WHO NEVER LEFT OR QUIT.

"FOR DECADES, PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT DAKOTA WAS JUST LIKE THE BRIDGE TO PARIS ISLAND. THEY SAID WE WERE BROKEN.

"BUT TOGETHER, WE'VE BUILT A BRIDGE TO A *BETTER TOMORROW*.

"A TOMORROW WE CAN ALL SHARE IN."

WAYNE MANOR.

FINALLY!
I SPENT ALL DAY
TRYING TO GET
IN TOUCH.

BEEN BUSY
WITH DAKOTA'S
Q-LAUNCH TODAY.
WHICH YOU WOULD'VE
KNOWN IF YOU READ
THE BRIEFING...

"WELL, WHILE YOU WERE DOING
ALL THAT, Q-GRID SITES IN HUB,
FAWCETT, AND OPAL HAVE BEEN
TAKEN OFFLINE--"

"WHAT?! SECURITY PROTOCOLS
ARE ACTIVE FOR ALL OF THOSE!
FORCE FIELDS, LASER MOTION
SENSORS, THE WORKS!"

HERE'S
WHERE IT GETS
WEIRD. THERE'S NO
SURVEILLANCE VIDEO
FOR ANY OF THE
INCIDENTS.

AND SINCE THE
FACILITIES ARE MOSTLY
AUTOMATED, THERE ARE
NO EYEWITNESSES,
RIGHT?

THIS MANY SITES
TAKEN OUT SO QUICK?
GOTTA BE SOME KIND
OF META.

ONLY
ACCOUNT I'VE
FOUND SAYS THEY
SAW A MASKED FIGURE
IN A BLACK CLOAK
ON THE GROUNDS
RIGHT BEFORE THE
EXPLOSIONS
STARTED.

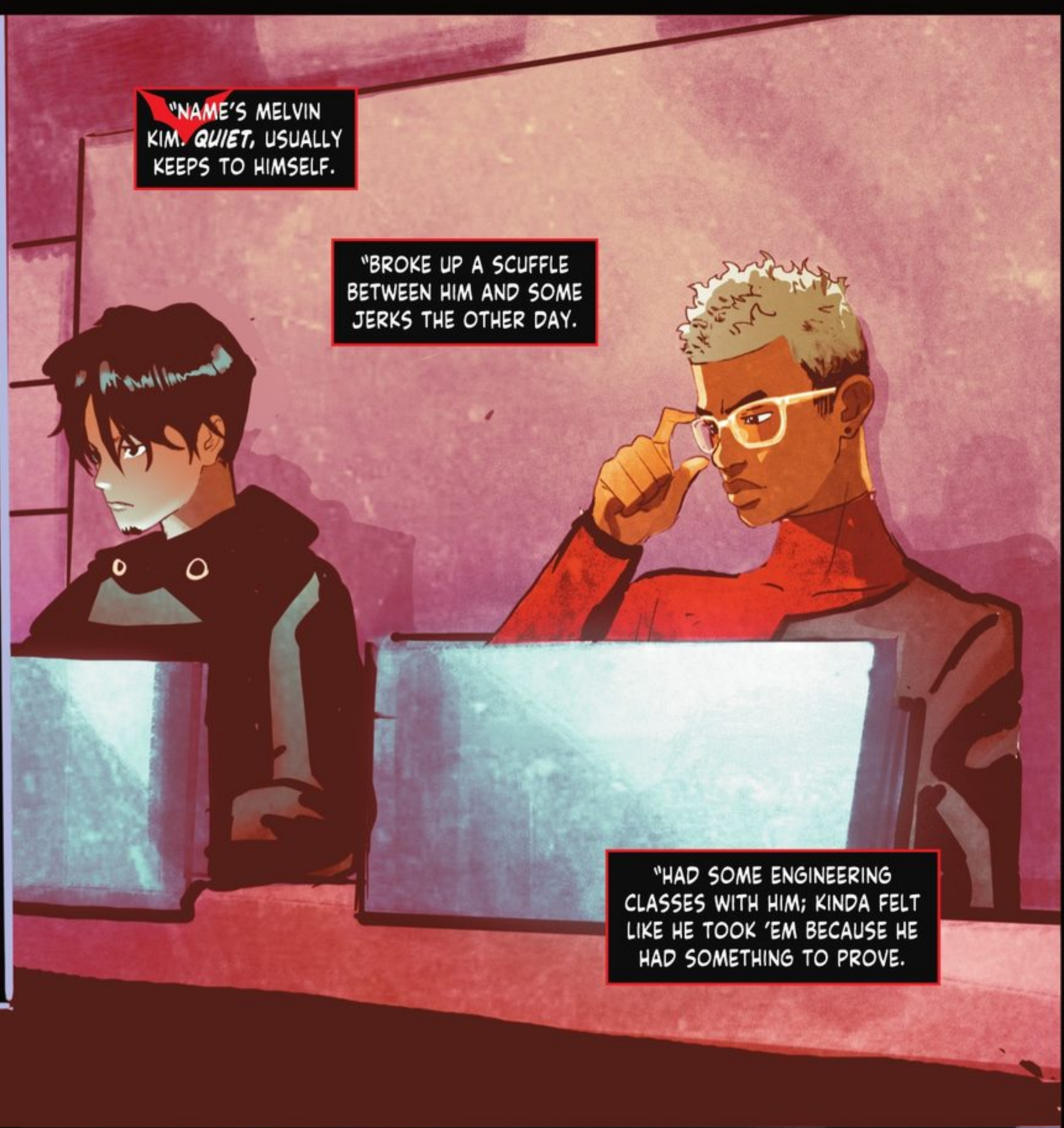
THAT'S NOT
ALL. WHOEVER'S
DOING THIS IS HEADING
WEST TOWARD
DAKOTA.



THINK IT'S
YOUR GUY FROM
LAST NIGHT?

MAYBE?
DID SOME LEGWORK
AND FOUND OUT HE WAS
ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL
AS A JOHN DOE. SEEMS
LIKE ALL THE MED-TECH
MALFUNCTIONED.

HMMM.
HE'S A CLASSMATE
OF YOURS, RIGHT?
WHAT CAN YOU TELL
ME ABOUT HIM?



"NAME'S MELVIN
KIM. *QUIET*, USUALLY
KEEPS TO HIMSELF.

"BROKE UP A SCUFFLE
BETWEEN HIM AND SOME
JERKS THE OTHER DAY.

"HAD SOME ENGINEERING
CLASSES WITH HIM; KINDA FELT
LIKE HE TOOK 'EM BECAUSE HE
HAD SOMETHING TO PROVE.



LISTEN, IF
IT'S HIM, I CAN
BE OUT THERE
FAST, IN JUST
A COUPLE--



UNH-UH. GOOD
WORK WITH THE INTEL
BUT WE GOT ENOUGH
HITTERS IN DAKOTA TO
DEAL WITH WHATEVER
MELVIN'S BECOME.

STAY HOME.
MAYBE YOU CAN GET
AROUND TO READING
THAT BRIEFING.
STATIC OUT.



WHY ARE
ALL YOU *OLD*
PEOPLE SUCH
JERKS?!

PARIS ISLAND, DAKOTA CITY.

So this is Dakota City.
Hmph, not impressed.

I took down
those other
power stations
on the way here.
Nobody in those
places will get
hurt the way
I did.

Still can't believe I did it but
I'm some kind of freak now.
Can't run away from that.

Whatever's
happened
to me, this
is where it
started.

And this is where I'm going
to finish it, by stabbing the
Q-Grid right in the heart.

YO!
WHAT THE
@#%\$?!

**HONK
HONK**

WHY THIS
FOOL FLYING
RIGHT ONTO THE
BRIDGE?!

BEEP

C'MON,
SOME MESS IS
DEFINITELY ABOUT
TO JUMP OFF!
GET US OUT
OF HERE!

TRYING
TO BUT THE
CAR JUST WENT
COMPLETELY
DEAD!

Q-TECH
EVERYWHERE...
SHOOTING PAIN
THROUGH ME!
UNGH!

NEED TO STOP IT ALL!

AAAAAAAHH!

YAAAAAAAH!

TOO
MUCH...STILL
HURTS...



HOLD ON,
Y'ALL!

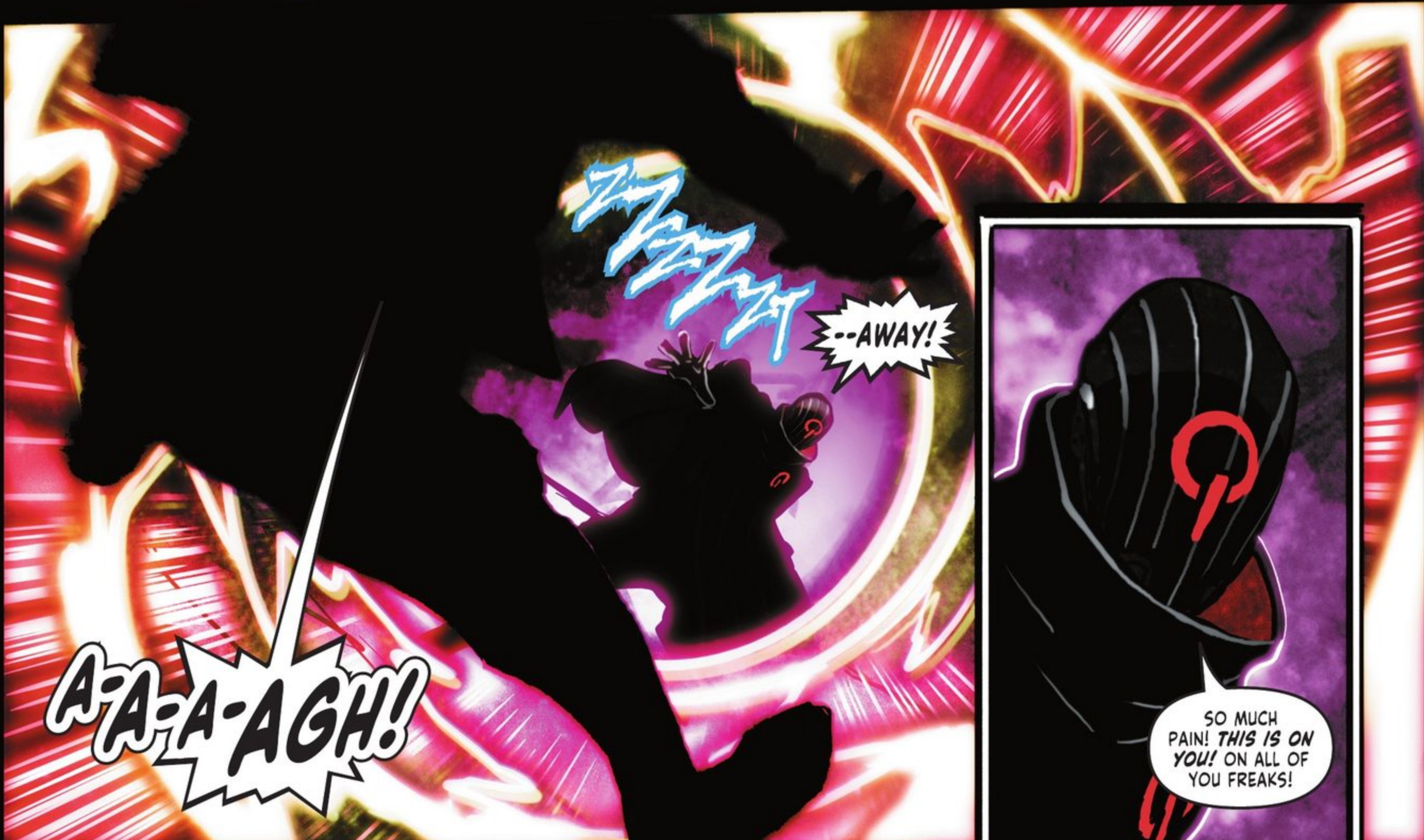
BEACON!
WHAT'RE YOU EVEN
DOING HERE?!

SCANNERS PICKED
UP A TECHNOLOGICAL
BLACKOUT MOVING ACROSS
DAKOTA AIRSPACE AND I
FOLLOWED IT HERE.

UNNNFFF!

NOT FROM
AROUND THESE PARTS,
ARE YOU?

YOUR POWERS
COME FROM SOME KIND
OF ALIEN TECH!
G-GET--



...AWAY!

A-A-A-AGH!



SO MUCH
PAIN! THIS IS ON
YOU! ON ALL OF
YOU FREAKS!

DUDE, FEEDS
ARE PICKING UP MAJOR
POWER INSTABILITY ON
THE BRIDGE.

DAMN.
BATMAN JR. MIGHT
BE INSUFFERABLY
COCKY BUT HE
WAS RIGHT.

THAT BANG
BABY OUT OF
GOTHAM IS HEADING
THIS WAY.

WHO
ELSE IS ON
SITE HERE AT
THE LAB?

TECHNIQUE'S
HEADING OVER TO
THE BRIDGE TO FIX THE
HARD-LIGHT EMITTERS
AND EVERYONE ELSE IS
HELPING WITH SEARCH
AND RESCUE.

SO JUST US,
THEN. TIME TO
GET READY,
RICHIE.

POP

POP

POP

POP



GEAR! DON'T GET TOO CLOSE! WE DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT WHAT THIS GUY CAN DO!

NO SWEAT, STATIC! HOW ABOUT WE GIVE MISTER SHORT, GRIM, AND MYSTERIOUS A LITTLE NAP COURTESY OF SOME SLEEP DARTS?!

URNGH! NEED TO S-STOP THEM!

TELEKINETIC, HUH? LET'S TRY THESE RESTRAINTS, THEN!

D-DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH IT HURTS!

NR
FAA
UGH!

I'LL STOP ALL THE PAIN YOUR TECH CAUSES!



YOU JUST PUT DOWN ONE OF THE BEST PEOPLE I'VE EVER KNOWN. BUT I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE. WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT.

I KNOW YOU'RE IN PAIN, ANGRY, AND CONFUSED ABOUT THESE NEW ABILITIES. THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING, FRIEND.

I'M NOT YOUR FRIEND!

I'M STOPPING THIS ^%&\$^~UP TECH MADE IN THIS ^%&\$^~UP CITY FROM MESSING UP ANYBODY ELSE'S LIFE!

MELVIN...IT'S MELVIN, RIGHT? I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN GOTHAM AND I'M SORRY...

MELVIN GOT SICK OF NOBODY LISTENING. THE ONLY THING LEFT IS **SHUTDOWN**.

LISTEN, WE HAVE RESOURCES IN DAKOTA THAT CAN HELP YOU--

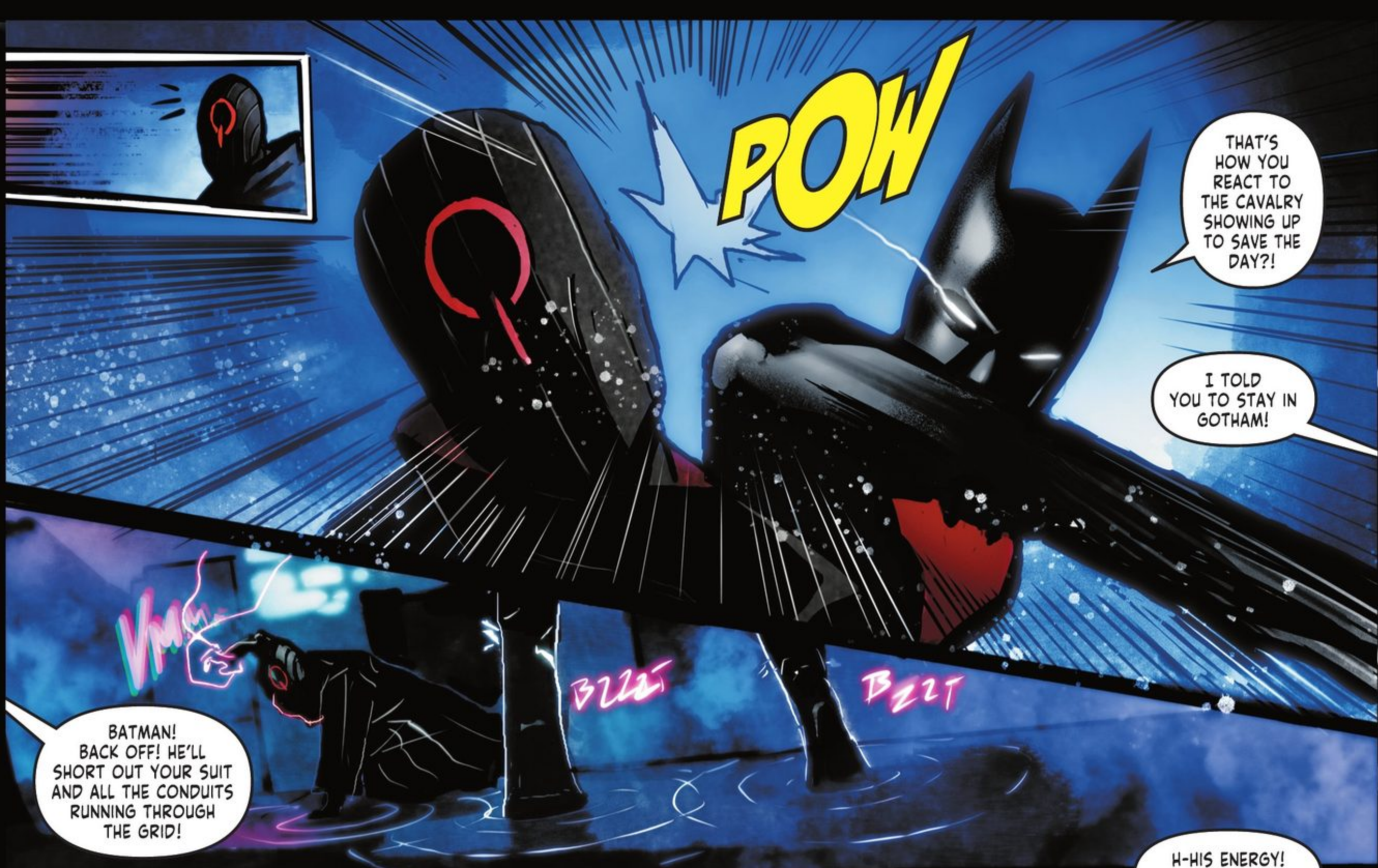
SCREW YOUR HELP! I'M ENDING THIS ALL TONIGHT!



OKAY, KID. YOU CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.



OH NO...



ZZZZRRRAAAAKKXX

BOOM

DAKOTA CITY.

METROPOLIS.

NEO-GOTHAM.

DAILY PLANET

TO BE CONTINUED!

BATMAN TM *Static* TM BEYOND

CHAIN REACTIONS

STORY BY

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NIKOLAS DRAPER-IVEY

LETTERS BY

WES ABBOTT

COVER BY

NIKOLAS DRAPER-IVEY

VARIANT COVERS BY

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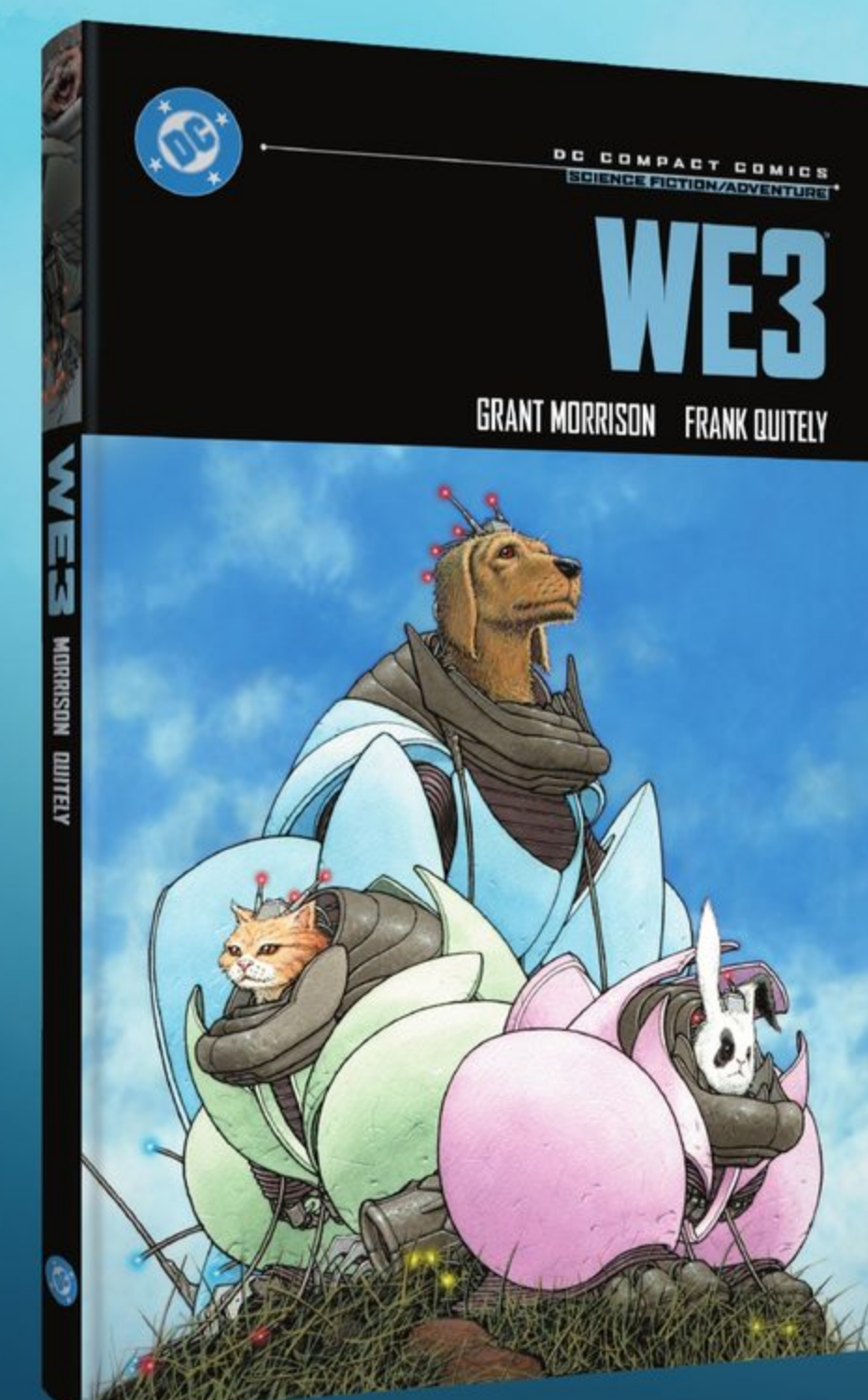
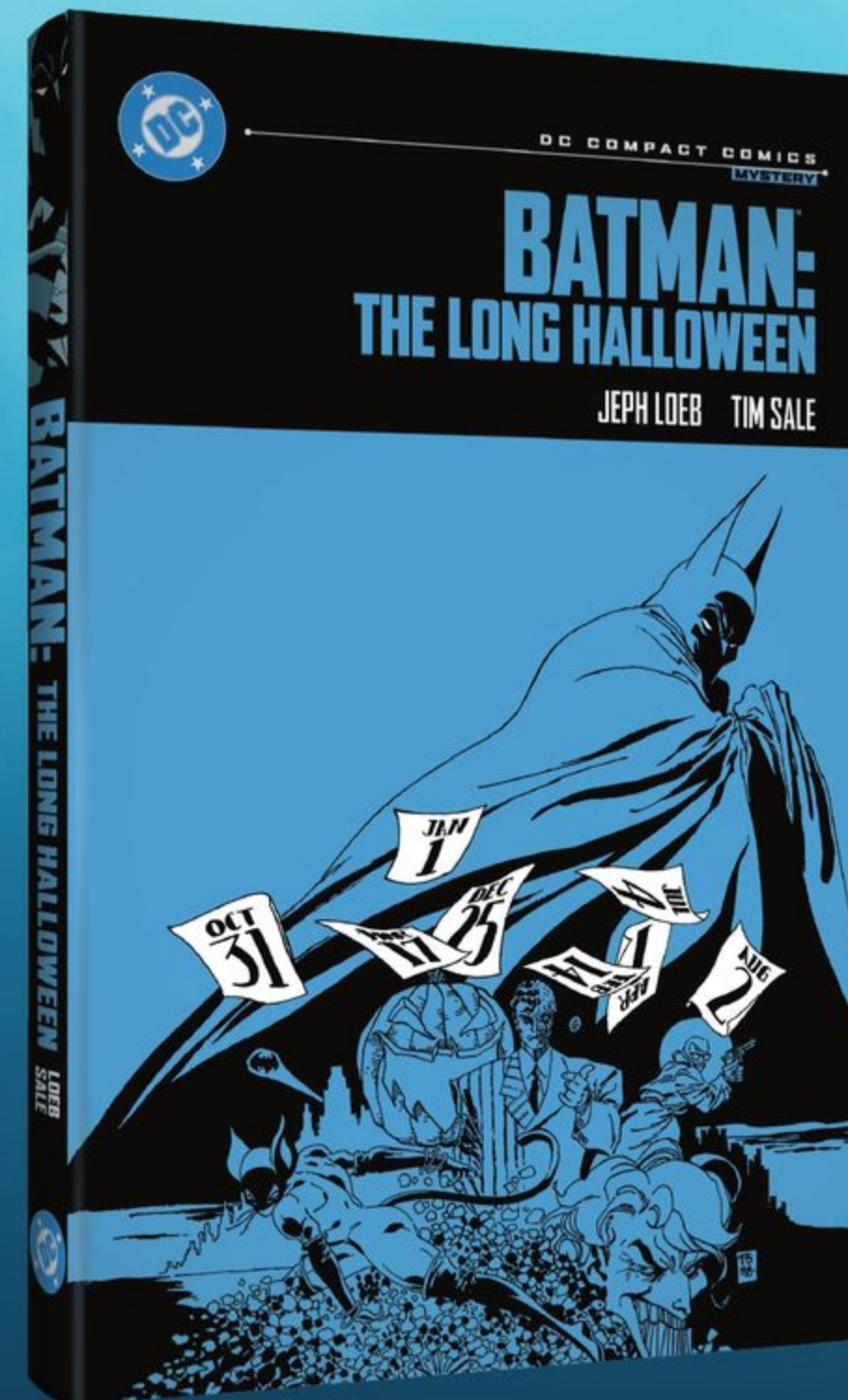
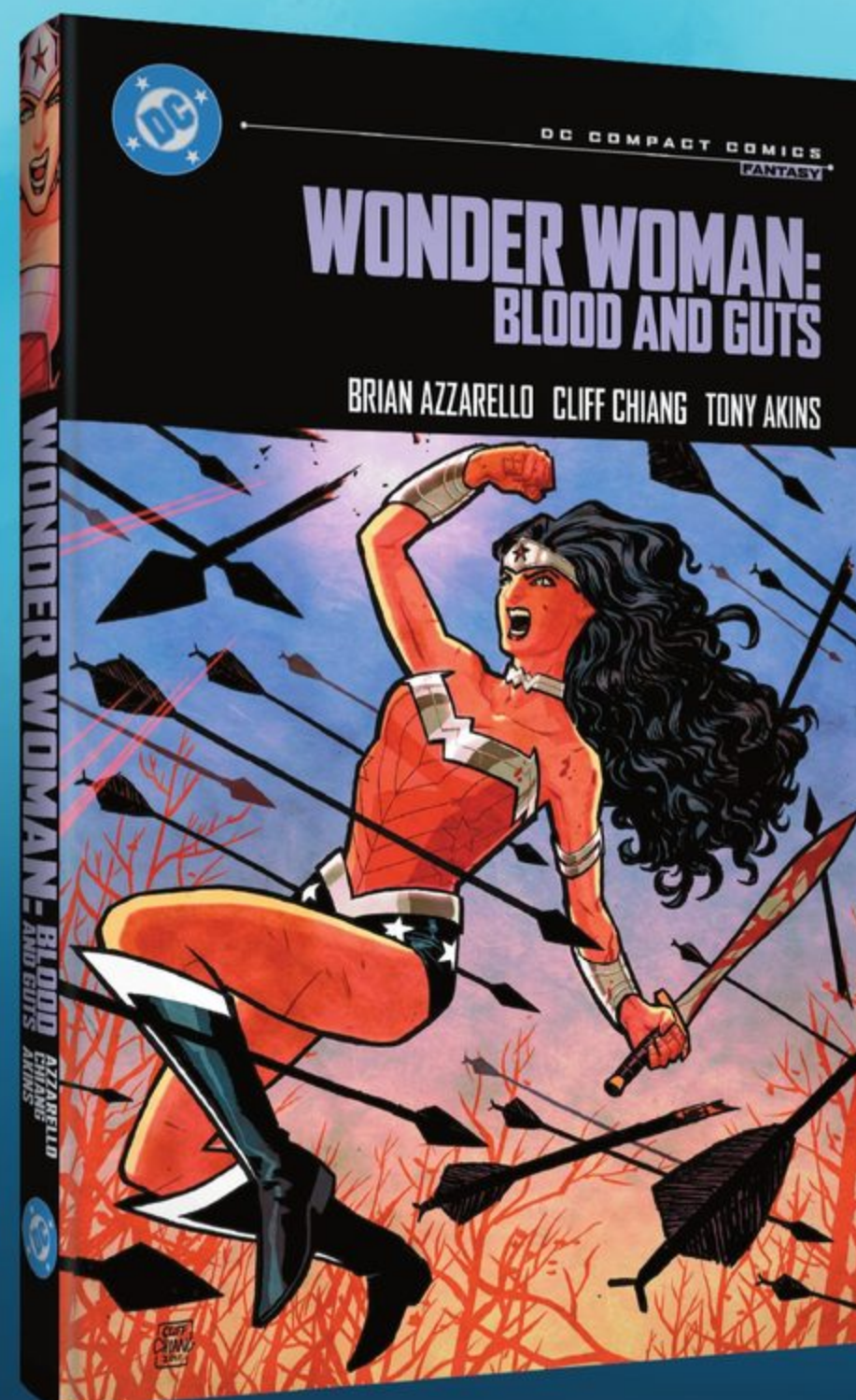
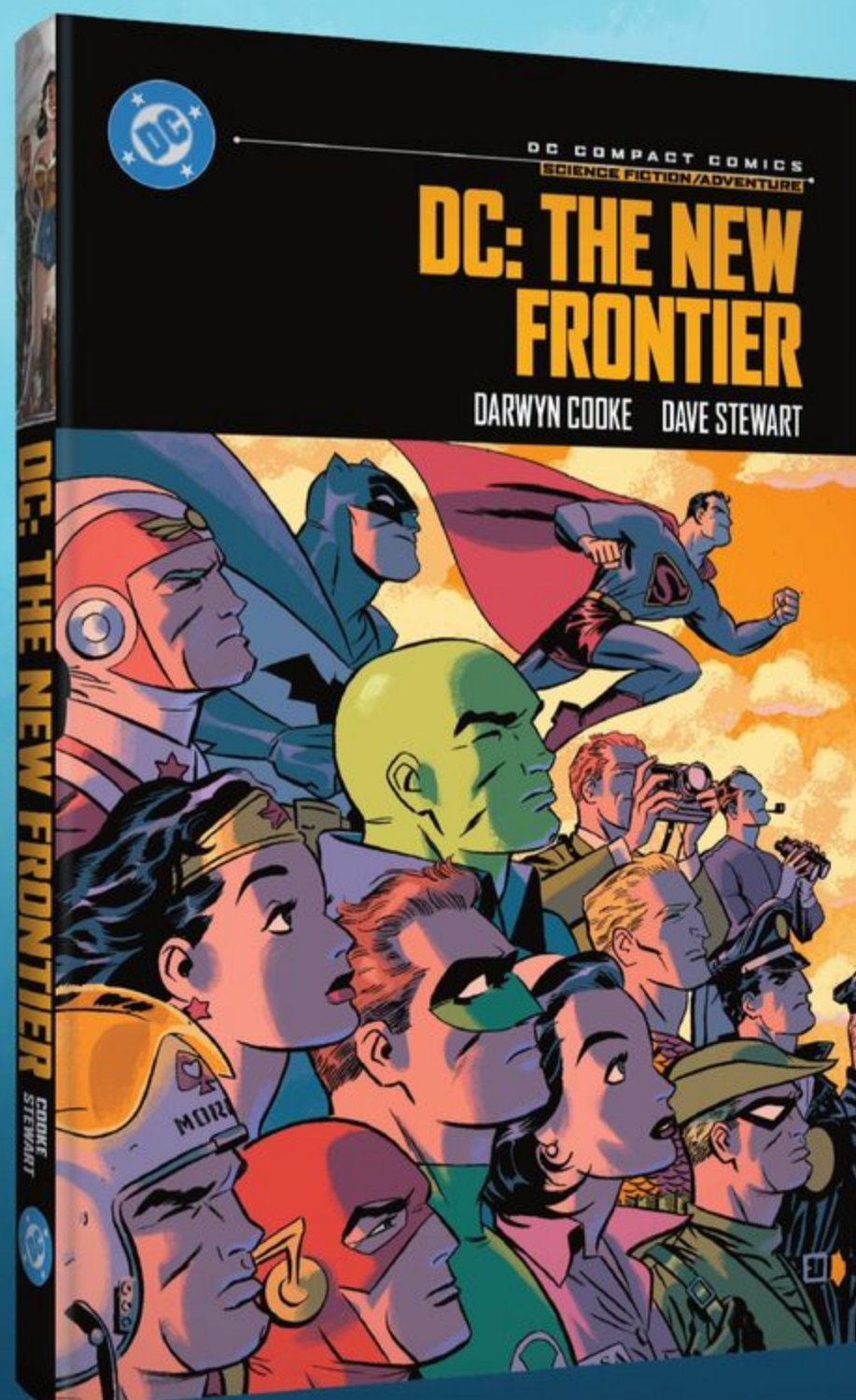
BATMAN CREATED BY **BOB KANE** WITH **BILL FINGER**

STATIC CREATED BY **DWAYNE MCDUFFIE, DEREK T. DINGLE,
DENYS COWAN, AND MICHAEL DAVIS**





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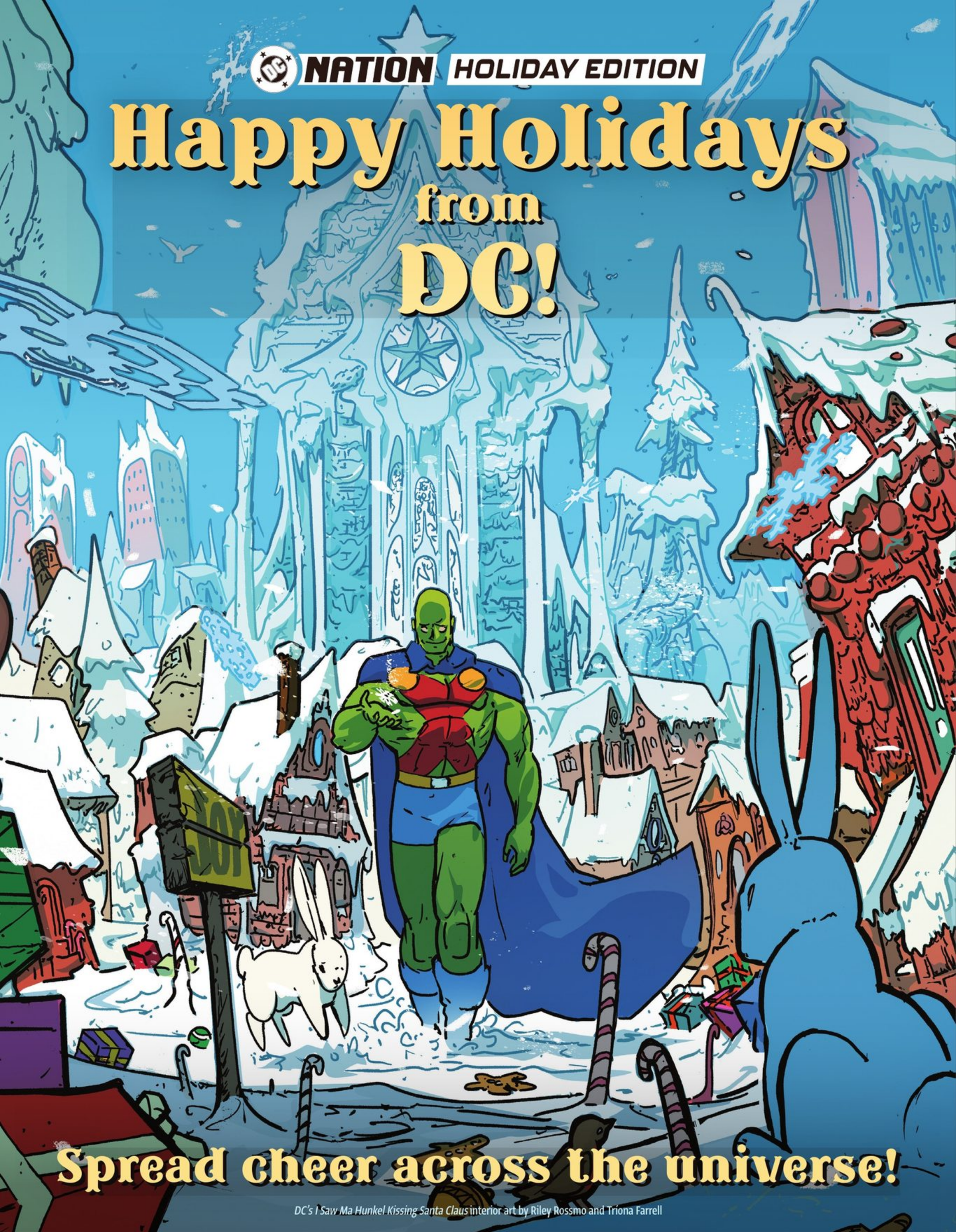
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NATION

HOLIDAY EDITION

Happy Holidays from DC!



Spread cheer across the universe!

DC's I Saw Ma Hunkel Kissing Santa Claus interior art by Riley Rossmo and Triona Farrell

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